

Threat Of Assassins Swayed Ted Kennedy

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NEW YORK (AP) — Sen. Edward M. Kennedy says the possibility of an assassination attempt was the "most crushing" consideration in deciding not to seek the 1972 Democratic presidential nomination, Look magazine reports in its Aug. 10 issue.

The magazine quotes the Massachusetts senator as saying, "Even if I were willing to reach out for this opportunity, personal pressures are overriding—subjecting my family to fears over my safety...the tensions on my mother."

Kennedy has repeatedly denied that he will seek the nomination, but he is commonly included among the Democratic possibilities.

"I try not to think about the presidency," he told Warren Rogers in an interview. "But people like you keep bringing it up. I don't discuss it with my family. We just don't talk about it."

Kennedy, 39, added, however, "Then, too, maybe I would like to do it later on, in a different climate, more on my own."

He went on to acknowledge his awareness of "pressures felt within myself as well as from others" to carry on in the "tradition" of his late brothers—President John F. Kennedy and Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, who were both killed by assassins.

"But on the other side are the overriding personal considerations," he added.

Kennedy said, "Ultimately, it is within this perspective that a final decision will be made."